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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-sixth session
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

ENCOURAGEMENT OF UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-second session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted its resolution 1 B (XXXII) of 5 September 1979, by which it decided to establish each year a sessional working group composed of five members of the Sub-Commission, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution, to consider ways and means of encouraging Governments which had not yet done so to ratify or accede to international human rights instruments.

2. In the same resolution, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General, well before the annual sessions of the Sub-Commission, to write to Governments which had not yet accepted major human rights instruments requesting them to inform the Sub-Commission of the circumstances which so far had not yet enabled them to ratify or accede to those instruments and to explain any particular difficulties they might face, in respect of which the United Nations could offer any assistance; invited the sessional Working Group of the Sub-Commission to examine the replies received from Governments; and requested the Working Group to consider, in appropriate cases, what forms of assistance could be provided to Governments by the United Nations, with a view to assisting them to ratify or adhere to the human rights conventions as speedily as possible.

GE.94-13129 (E)

3. In its resolution 1984/36 of 30 August 1984 the Sub-Commission decided to suspend the work of the Working Group on the Encouragement of Universal Acceptance of Human Rights Instruments and to request the Chairman of the Sub-Commission to appoint one of its members to report to it at its thirty-eighth session on information received under the resolution. This request was repeated at its thirty-eighth (resolution 1985/5), fortieth (resolution 1988/30) and forty-second (resolution 1990/24) sessions.

4. At its forty-fourth session, the Sub-Commission, by resolution 1992/1 of 14 August 1992, again requested its Chairman to appoint one of its members to report to it at its forty-sixth session on the subject of the encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments. In the same resolution, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to update the table containing a country-by-country record of developments relating to ratification of, or accession to, the human rights instruments included in the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission.

5. Since the adoption of Sub-Commission resolution 1992/1, it is of interest to note that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, it was stated, inter alia, that "the World Conference strongly recommends that a concerted effort be made to encourage and facilitate the ratification of and accession or succession to international human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations system with the aim of universal acceptance", and that "special attention should be paid to assessing the progress towards the goal of universal ratification of international human rights and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations system".

6. In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action it was also stated that measures should be taken to achieve universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 1995 and that the United Nations should encourage the goal of universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000. As at 16 June 1994, there were 161 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and 133 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/141 by which it decided to create the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights. One element of the High Commissioner's mandate is to promote the universal respect for and observance of all human rights.

8. With respect to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, activities are being carried out to achieve universal ratification of the major international human rights instruments. In this connection, on the occasion of official contacts with Member States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the various instruments mentioned in the Sub-Commission resolutions, the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights have repeatedly urged States to do so and have offered the assistance of the United Nations in overcoming any special difficulties in that regard.

9. Moreover, the representatives of States not yet parties to international human rights instruments who have attended the various regional and subregional human rights seminars and training courses organized by the Centre and other United Nations organs and agencies, have been strongly encouraged to promote ratification of or accession to those instruments by their Governments.

10. Pursuant to resolution 1992/1 of the Sub-Commission, the Secretary-General submits, in the annex to the present note, a table containing a record of developments which have taken place in connection with the ratification of or accession or succession to human rights instruments since the submission of the previous note by the Secretary-General on Encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/27) to the forty-second session of the Sub-Commission.

Annex

TABLE CONTAINING A RECORD, AS OF 16 JUNE 1994, OF THE RATIFICATIONS, ACCESSIONS OR SUCCESSIONS TO HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE 25 JUNE 1992

A. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Armenia	13 September 1993 a/
Azerbaijan	13 August 1992 a/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993 b/
Cape Verde	6 August 1993 a/
Croatia	12 October 1992 b/
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/
Dominica	17 June 1993 a/
Ethiopia	11 June 1993 a/
Georgia	3 May 1994 a/
Guinea-Bissau	2 July 1992 a/
Lesotho	9 September 1992 a/
Malawi	22 December 1993 a/
Nigeria	29 July 1993 a/
Republic of Moldovo	26 January 1993 a/
Slovakia	18 May 1993 b/
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 b

B. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Armenia	23 June 1993 a/
Azerbaijan	13 August 1992 a/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993 b/
Cape Verde	6 August 1993 a/
Croatia	12 October 1992 b/
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/
Dominica	17 June 1993 a/
Ethiopia	11 June 1993 a/
Georgia	3 May 1994 a/
Lesotho	9 September 1992 a/
Malawi	22 December 1993 a/

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Mozambique	21 July 1993 a/
Nigeria	29 July 1993 a/
Republic of Moldovo	26 January 1993 a/
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 b/

C. Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Armenia	23 June 1993 a/
Belarus	30 September 1992 a/
Belgium	17 May 1994 a/
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/
Georgia	3 May 1994 a/
Germany	25 August 1993
Guinea	17 June 1993
Guyana	10 May 1993 a/
Romania	20 July 1993 a/
Slovakia	28 May 1993
Slovenia	16 July 1993 a/

D. Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty*

Australia	2 October 1990 a/
Austria	2 March 1993
Denmark	24 February 1994
Ecuador	23 February 1993 a/
Finland	4 April 1991
Germany	18 August 1992
Hungary	24 February 1994 a/
Iceland	2 April 1991

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* Information is given concerning all the States parties to the Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and not only those States ratifying or acceding to it since 25 June 1992. The status of the Second Optional Protocol was not included in the note prepared by the Secretary-General on the encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments prepared for the forty-fourth session of the Sub-Commission.

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Ireland	18 June 1993 a/
Luxembourg	12 February 1992
Mozambique	21 July 1993 a/
Netherlands	26 March 1991
New Zealand	22 February 1990
Norway	5 September 1991
Panama	21 January 1993 a/
Portugal	17 October 1990
Romania	27 February 1991
Slovenia	10 March 1994
Spain	11 April 1991
Sweden	11 May 1990
Switzerland	16 June 1994 a/
Uruguay	21 January 1993
Venezuela	22 February 1993

E. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Albania	11 May 1994 a/
Armenia	23 June 1993 a/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	16 July 1993 b/
Croatia	12 October 1992 b/
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993 a/
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 b/

F. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Armenia	23 June 1993 a/
Croatia	12 October 1992 b/
Czech Republic	22 January 1993 a/
Liechtenstein	24 March 1994 a/
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993 a/
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 b/

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
G. International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid	
Armenia	23 June 1993 a/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993 b/
Croatia	12 October 1992 b/
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/
Jordan	1 July 1992
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 b/
H. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	
Albania	11 May 1994 a/
Armenia	13 September 1993 a/
Bahamas	6 October 1993 a/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993 b/
Cambodia	15 October 1992 a/
Croatia	9 September 1992 b/
Czech Republic	22 February 1993 b/
Gambia	16 April 1993 b/
India	9 July 1993 b/
Jordan	1 July 1992
Lithuania	18 January 1994 a/
Maldives	1 July 1993 a/
Morocco	21 June 1993 a/
Namibia	23 November 1992 a/
Samoa	25 September 1992 a/
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/
Suriname	1 March 1993 a/
Tajikistan	26 October 1993 a/

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
I. Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949	
Andorra	17 September 1993 a/
Armenia	7 June 1993 a/
Azerbaijan	1 June 1993 a/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	31 December 1992 b/
Czech Republic	5 February 1993 b/
Estonia	18 January 1993 a/
Georgia	14 September 1993 a/
Kyrgyzstan	18 September 1992 b/
Myanmar	25 August 1992 a/
Republic of Moldova	24 May 1993 a/
Slovakia	2 April 1993 b/
Tajikistan	13 January 1993 b/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 September 1993 b/
Uzbekistan	8 October 1993 a/
J. Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949	
Albania	16 July 1993 a/
Armenia	7 June 1993 a/
Bosnia and Herzegovina	31 December 1992 b/
Burundi	10 June 1993 a/
Colombia (Protocol I)	1 September 1993 a/
Czech Republic	5 February 1993 b/
Dominican Republic	26 May 1994 a/
Egypt	9 October 1992
Estonia	18 January 1993 a/
Ethiopia	8 April 1994 a/
Georgia	14 September 1993 a/
Greece (Protocol II)	15 February 1993 a/
Kyrgyzstan	18 September 1992 b/
Lesotho	20 May 1994 a/
Republic of Moldova	24 May 1993 a/
San Marino	5 April 1994
Slovakia	2 April 1993 b/
Tajikistan	13 January 1993 b/
Turkmenistan	10 April 1992 b/
Uzbekistan	8 October 1993 a/
Zimbabwe	19 October 1992 a/

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
K. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	
Albania	11 May 1994 a/
Antigua and Barbuda	19 July 1993 a/
Armenia	13 September 1993 a/
Burundi	18 February 1993 a/
Cambodia	15 October 1992 a/
Costa Rica	11 November 1993
Croatia	12 October 1992 b/
Czech Republic	1 January 1993 b/
Ethiopia	14 March 1994 a/
Mauritius	9 December 1992 a/
Morocco	21 June 1993
Slovakia	29 May 1993 a/
Slovenia	16 July 1993 a/
Sri Lanka	3 January 1994 a/
L. Convention on the Rights of the Child	
Afghanistan	28 March 1994
Algeria	16 April 1993
Antigua and Barbuda	5 October 1993
Armenia	23 June 1993 a/
Austria	6 August 1992
Azerbaijan	13 August 1992 a/
Cambodia	15 October 1992
Cameroon	11 January 1993
Comoros	22 June 1993
Congo	14 October 1993 a/
Croatia	12 October 1992 b/
Czech Republic	1 January 1993 b/
Fiji	13 August 1993
Gabon	9 February 1994
Georgia	2 June 1994 a/
Greece	11 May 1993
Iceland	28 October 1992
India	11 December 1992
Iraq	15 June 1994 a/
Ireland	28 September 1992
Japan	22 April 1994
Liberia	4 June 1993
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 April 1993 a/
Luxembourg	7 March 1994

State	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession or succession
Marshall Islands	4 October 1993
Micronesia (Federated States of)	5 May 1993 a/
Monaco	21 June 1993 a/
Morocco	21 June 1993
Mozambique	26 April 1994
New Zealand	6 April 1993
Papua New Guinea	1 March 1993
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993 a/
Saint Lucia	16 June 1993 a/
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	26 October 1993
Slovakia	28 May 1993 b/
Slovenia	6 July 1992 b/
Suriname	1 March 1993
Syrian Arab Republic	15 July 1993
Tajikistan	26 October 1993 a/
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2 December 1993 a/
Turkmenistan	20 September 1993 a/
Vanuatu	7 July 1993

M. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Egypt	19 February 1993 a/
Morocco	21 June 1993

Notes

a/ Accession.

b/ Date of receipt of notification of succession.